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AUTHOR Newman, Killian, Ed.
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ABSTRACT

This bibliography lists 63 books selected from a total of over 200 books in print which had been read, reviewed, and recommended in each case by an American Indian. Books are categorized according to the age group for which they are considered suitable; intervals used are ages six to eight, eight to ten, ten to twelve, and twelve to young adult. The listing is designed to help the selection of "reading material which is both authentic and fair" so as to "enable young people to understand and appreciate the life of American Indians as it really was and as it really is." [This list is a preliminary version of a larger bibliography to be published in 1970.] (JM)

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A PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED CHILDREN'S BOOKS ABOUT AMERICAN INDIANS

Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc.
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PREFACE

For too long Indian and non-Indian children who are interested in the history and contemporary life of the American Indian have had to rely on a somewhat random choice from a multitude of books. The Association on American Indian Affairs has felt the need for a list of recommended children's books about American Indians. With such a list, librarians, teachers, and children may be able to select reading material which is both authentic and fair. This bibliography is designed then to enable young people to understand and appreciate the life of American Indians as it really was and as it really is.

Each book listed herein was read, reviewed, and recommended by an American Indian. Over two hundred books were read for the compilation of this 63-book list. Each of these books is in print and should be available through your local bookstore or the publisher.

This list is a preliminary version of a larger bibliography to be completed and published in 1970 and to include books selected from over six hundred read.

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AGES 6 to 8

Little Runner of the Longhouse

Baker, Betty. Illus. by Arnold Lobel. 63p.
Harper & Row, N.Y. 1962. $2.50.

A young Iroquois boy of the past wants to participate in the older boys' New Year's games but is too young. He tries to fool his mother by pretending to be bigger so that he may join in the fun. Attractively illustrated, this is a delightful and happy story.

The Painted Cave

Behn, Harry. Illus. by the author. 63p.
Harcourt, Brace & World, N.Y. 1957. $3.50.

An Indian boy (no tribe is specified) of the past is sent to save The People, a tribe which has lost everything. In saving this tribe, he loses and then recovers his own name, and he discovers important values of life.

The Story of Little-Big

Beyer, E. C. Illus. by Vee Guthrie. 48p.
Reilly & Lee Co., Chicago. 1962. $2.75.

A little boy of a woodland tribe ventures into the forest in search of a playmate. When he comes home, after seeing various animals, he finds a new baby brother.

Blue Canyon Horse

Clark, Ann Nolan. Illus. by Ellen Houser. 56p.
Viking Press, N.Y. 1954. $3.50.

An Indian boy's mare hears the call of the wild and joins a herd of wild horses. After running with them for a while, she and her colt return to the shelter and safety of the boy's village.

The Desert People

Clark, Ann Nolan. Illus. by Ellen Houser. 56p.
Viking Press, N.Y. 1962. $3.50.

This book describes the way the Papago Indians of the Southwest lived in the past. We see them through a calendar year of activity as they follow the cycles of nature.

(Ages 6-8)

Little Indian Basket Maker

Clark, Ann Nolan. Illus. by Harrison Begay. 31p.
Melmont Publishers, Chicago. 1957. $2.50.

A young Papago girl of the past is taught by her grandmother to make a fine mat from plaited yucca leaves and baskets from coiled willow leaves.

Little Indian Pottery Maker

Clark, Ann Nolan. Illus. by Don Perceval. 31p.
Melmont Publishers, Chicago. 1955. $2.50.

A simple and appealing book for young children, this is the story of a Pueblo girl of New Mexico who learns to make a pottery bowl and to feel the satisfaction of her work.

This for That

Clark, Ann Nolan. Illus. by Don Freeman. 61p.
Golden Gate Junior Books, San Carlos, Cal. 1965. $3.50.

A wise old grandfather of long ago helps a young Papago boy to improve his memory by introducing him to the trade rats.

Chipmunk in the Forest

Clymer, Eleanor. Illus. by Ingrid Fetz. 56p.
Atheneum, N.Y. 1965. $2.50.

A young lad of the Eastern Woodlands is expected to learn to hunt, but he is afraid of the forest. When his little brother runs away into the forest, the older boy has to choose between his fear and his brother.

Toyanuki's Rabbit

Harvey, Lois. Illus. by H. Luhrs and F. Eckart. 62p.
Melmont Children's Press, Chicago. 1964. $2.50.

These stories of a Paiute boy of long ago give an accurate and informative picture of the everyday home life and activities of this tribe.

A Day in Oraibi: A Hopi Indian Village

James, Harry. Illus. by Don Perceval. 31p.
Melmont Children's Press, Chicago. 1959. $2.50.

A white boy spends a day at Oraibi, Arizona with two contemporary Hopi children to learn about the oldest village in the United States. This story is well illustrated and very informative.

The White Buffalo

Nicholson, John. Illus. by Roger Vernon. 44p.
Platt & Munk, N.Y. 1965. $3.97 (lib. bdg.)

A Crow boy befriends a rare snow-white buffalo and must protect the maturing calf from hunters. His persistence results in saving the tribe during the long hard winter in the Northern Plains, and his wisdom is finally recognized. The description of Crow life before the advent of the white man is well done. Outstanding illustrations.

Navajo Land Yesterday and Today

Russell, Solveig Paulson. Illus. by Baida Whitebead. 32p.
Melmont Children's Press, Chicago. 1961. $2.50.

Navajo Indians of the past and present are well described here, with brief and accurate discussions of customs, home life, and rituals.

One Small Blue Bead

Schweitzer, Byrd Baylor. Illus. by Symeon Shimin. 40p.
Macmillan, N.Y. 1965. $3.50.

This is a very simple but lovely and lyrical verse story of a young boy who lived in the Southwest many years ago. He wonders if other tribes exist besides his own and is scoffed at by everyone except one old man who goes to explore and finally comes back with another boy. Beautifully illustrated.

Little Wolf the Rain Dancer

Shannon, Terry. Illus. by Charles Payzant. 48p.
Albert Whitman & Co., Chicago. 1954. $2.75.

Little Wolf is a Zuni boy of the past who is chosen to be the Fire God in the Rain Dance. Through his honesty and his perseverance, he is able to bring the much-needed rain.

AGES 8 TO 10

When the Moon is New

Bannon, Laura. Illus. by the author. 48p.
Albert Whitman & Co., Chicago. 1953. $2.75.

A charming and superbly illustrated story of a seven year old Seminole Indian girl of today who knows a surprise is coming and has difficulty being patient. This book paints a warm picture of Seminole family life in the Florida Everglades.

The Cherokee

Bleeker, Sonia. Illus. by Althea Karr. 154p.
Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y. 1952. $3.50.

Miss Bleeker describes the daily life of the Cherokee of the past, tells the story of Sequoya (who invented an alphabet), and charts the "trail of tears" that brought the Cherokees to reservation life.

Horsemen of the Western Plateaus

Bleeker, Sonia. Illus. by Patricia Boodell. 152p.
Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y. 1957. $3.50.

Along with the story of young Spotted Salmon, Miss Bleeker gives an account of the history of the Nez Perce tribe, from their first encounter with white men to their life on the Colville and Lapwai reservations in the Northwest.

The Mission Indians of California

Bleeker, Sonia. Illus. by Althea Karr. 137p.
Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y. 1956. $3.25.

The main story of this book is told through Little Singer, a Mission Indian boy of Southern California in the 18th century. Through his eyes we follow the troubled history of these Indians up through 1848 when the United States gained control of California. Miss Bleeker deals briefly with the Mission Indians' present-day situation.

The Pueblo Indians

Bleeker, Sonia. Illus. by Patricia Boodell. 160p.
Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y. 1955. $3.25.

Through the daily life of a young boy, we follow activities of the past such as the communal hunt, working in the fields, ceremonies and trading. The book includes the history of the Pueblos -- their conquest, revolt and re-conquest -- and gives a brief picture of their modern life.

(Ages 8-10)

The Sea Hunters: Indians of the Northwest Coast

Bleeker, Sonia. Illus. by Althea Karr. 156p.
Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y. 1951. $3.25.

An accurate and fascinating account of the life of the Northwest Coast Indians up through the 19th century, this book makes clear the richness and sophistication of their life.

Seminoles

Bleeker, Sonia. Illus. by Althea Karr. 149p.
Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y. 1954. $3.50.

The history and a present picture of the Seminoles given here describe their travels, wars, and life in the Florida forests and swampland.

Pinto's Journey

Bronson, Wilfrid S. Illus. by the author. 56p.
Julian Messner, N.Y. 1948. $3.50.

Pinto is a Pueblo boy of the recent past whose family and village are badly in need of food. He sets out on a dangerous journey to find the turquoise mine mentioned by his grandfather. After several adventures worthy of a grown man he returns to surprise his family.

Hah-Nee of the Cliff Dwellers

Buff, Mary and Conrad. 70p.
Houghton-Mifflin, Boston. 1956. $3.57. (lib. bdg.).

Hah-Nee, a Ute boy of the 13th century, is deserted as an infant and raised by a cliff-dwelling tribe. Later, rejected by his adoptive tribe which becomes fearful of a great drought, he must find his way back to his own people with the help of his grandfather.

Little Navajo Bluebird

Clark, Ann Nolan. Illus. by Paul Lantz. 144p.
Viking Press, N.Y. 1943. $3.25.

Doli (Bluebird) is a young Navajo girl of the present who must learn to overcome her bitterness towards white men and learn what parts of their culture can be borrowed to enrich her own and her family's life. This is another one of Miss Clark's outstanding books.

(Ages 8-10)

Delawares

Dobrin, Norma. Illus. by Arnold Dobrin. 31p.
Melmont Children's Press, Chicago. 1963. $2.50.

This book describes the life of Delaware Indians of the past with emphasis on their legends and their peaceful ways.

Squanto: Indian Adventurer

Graff, Stewart and Polly Anne. Illus. by Robert Doremus. 80p.
Garrard Pub. Co., Champaign, Ill. 1965. $2.19. (lib. bdg.)

Squanto, a Wampanoag Indian, was the first to greet the Pilgrims when they landed in Massachusetts. He was a good and helpful friend to them, teaching them to hunt and fish, plant and harvest.

Jennie's Mandan Bowl

Hoffine, Lyla. Illus. by Larry Toschik. 103p.
David McKay Co., N.Y. 1960. $2.96. (lib. bdg.)

Jennie Youngbear is a modern Mandan Indian girl of North Dakota who is too shy to speak up in school and feels some shame at being an Indian. A summer spent learning of Mandan skills and history gives her the self-pride to overcome these problems. An excellent book.

Running Elk

Hoffine, Lyla. Illus. by Patricia Boodell. 108p.
Bobbs-Merrill Co., N.Y. 1957. $2.75.

Running Elk is a young Arikara boy of the past who wants to be the medicine man, the healer, of his tribe. Before he can do this, he must learn strength and courage and thoughtfulness for the needs of others.

Indian Music Makers

Hofsinde, Robert. Illus. by the author. 96p.
Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y. 1967. $3.25.

Mr. Hofsinde (Gray Wolf) presents a fund of interesting material on Indian songs and musical instruments and describes the many times in an Indian's life when singing played an important role. The book includes the words and music of a number of Indian songs.

Eagle Mask

Houston, James. Illus. by the author. 63p.
Harcourt, Brace & World, N.Y. 1966. $3.00.

A young prince of a Northwest Indian tribe of long ago must go through the endurance trials, rituals, and celebrations that mark his coming of age. This quite detailed and authentic story of Skemshan and his friend relates the adventures of a boy who must learn to accept the challenges and responsibilities of manhood.

David, Young Chief of the Quileutes

Kirk, Ruth. Illus. w. photographs by the author. 64p.
Harcourt, Brace & World, N.Y. 1967. $3.25.

A clear and accurate picture of the two worlds that many of today's Indians must live in, this book contains some marvelous descriptions of contemporary Quileute customs. It is the true story of David Hudson (Hoheeshata), who lives in the State of Washington and has been Quileute chief since the age of three, and tells of his eleventh birthday party in 1967.

Indians on Horseback

Marriot, Alice. Illus. by Margaret Lefranc. 136p.
Thos. Crowell, N.Y. 1968. $3.95.

This is an excellent semi-anthropological study of the Plains Indians of the 18th and 19th centuries and, briefly, of today. It is well written, sympathetic and informative, with many details of the Plains Indians' way of life.

Nine Tales of Coyote

Martin, Fran. Illus. by Dorothy McEntee. 60p.
Harper & Row, N.Y. 1950. $3.25.

This interesting and humorous book, complemented by fine illustrations, contains nine Indian legends dealing with Coyote, a character common to the folklore of many Northwestern tribes.

(Ages 8-10)

Nine Tales of Raven

Martin, Fran. Illus. by Dorothy McEntee. 60p.
Harper & Row, N.Y. 1951. $3.95.

Here are more Indian legends compiled by the author of Nine Tales of Coyote. These dynamic stories contain as much zest and humor as the "Coyote" collection.

Crazy Horse: Sioux Warrior

Meadowcroft, Enid. Illus. by Cary. 80p.
Garrard Pub. Co., Champaign, Ill. 1965. $2.19. (lib. bdg.)

A war chief of the Oglala tribe of the Sioux, Crazy Horse was a brilliant leader who tried to protect for his people the proud freedom of the Plains. He died in 1876 after helping to defeat General Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

Chumash Boy

Rambeau, Hohn and Nancy, and Richard Gross.
Illus. by Sabina and Jean Yates. 39p.
Field Educational Publications,
San Francisco, 1968. $2.00.

This excellent book for young readers contains a story and a brief historical study of the American Indian, from 1500 to the present, particularly in his contacts with white men. The story is of a Chumash (California) boy in 1542 who seeks his father in order to disprove the charges of cowardice made by his uncle, and includes many fascinating details of Chumash life.

Wakapoo and the Flying Arrows

Shannon, Terry. Illus. by Charles Payzant. 48p.
Albert Whitman, Chicago. 1963. $2.75.

This is the story of Wakapoo, a boy of the past, who guards his people and is alert enough to warn them of enemy attack. He then successfully goes through the rituals of becoming a man and earns the respect of his tribe.

AGES 10 TO 12

Killer-of-Death

Baker, Betty. Illus. by John Kaufman. 142p.
Harper & Row, N.Y. 1963. $2.95.

Killer-of-Death is the son of an Apache chief, growing to manhood in the last years of his tribe's freedom. He first learns such basic things as hunting for food, later competes for the hand of lovely Shy Maid, and finally must cope with the dreadful life of the reservation. The skills, customs, and fierce pride of the Apaches are well communicated here, as is a gripping sense of their doom.

Indian Hill

Bulla, Clyde R. Illus. by James Spanfeller. 74p.
Thomas Crowell, N.Y. 1963. $3.00.

This is a sensitively told story of an eleven year old Navajo boy's difficult acceptance of life in the city. The gentleness and strength of his family and his own reactions are perceptively and honestly presented.

The White Calf

Faulknor, Cliff. 180p.
Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 1965. $3.95.

Like Mr. Faulknor's The White Peril, this book describes the life and adventures of a Piegan Blackfoot family of the past through a typical year of life.

The White Peril

Faulknor, Cliff. 166p.
Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 1966. $3.95.

In an accurate and sympathetic portrayal of a Piegan Blackfoot boy of the past, growing to manhood through an interesting series of events and adventures, we also see a boy learning to understand and deal with a strange new threat that has come in overwhelming numbers to take over and exploit his land.

The Story of Pocahontas

Graham, Shirley. Illus. by Mario Cooper. 178p.
Grosset & Dunlap, N.Y. 1953. $2.50.

Pocahontas was the Algonquin princess who saved the life of Captain John Smith at her own risk, married John Rolfe of Jamestown, and traveled to England.

(Ages 10-12)

West With the White Chiefs

Harris, Christie. Illus. w. woodcuts by Walter Ferro. 214p.
Atheneum, N.Y. 1965. $3.95.

A factually based story of an Assiniboine family leading two Englishmen across a pass in the Rockies in the winter of 1863, this book contains all the excitement and adventure of a difficult westward passage.

The Eagle Feather Prize

Hoffine, Lyla. Illus. by Larry Toschik. 149p.
David McKay Co., N.Y. 1962. $3.11 (lib. bdg.)

Billy Youngbear, a Mandan Indian boy of today, wants a pony to win a calf-roping contest at the Fair, but his father encourages Billy to concentrate on raising a fine 4H calf. The author gives an understanding picture of ranching life on a North Dakota Indian reservation.

Indian Beadwork

Hofsinde, Robert. Illus. by the author. 127p.
Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y. 1958. $3.14 (lib. bdg.)

In this book Mr. Hofsinde discusses the history of beadwork among North American Indians and gives clear diagrams and instructions for those who wish to try. He explains how to construct the bead loom and how to work out designs as well as giving many examples of traditional designs and their meanings.

Indian Games and Crafts

Hofsinde, Robert. Illus. by the author. 126p.
Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y. 1957. $3.25.

This brief but fascinating book presents detailed instructions on how to make simple game equipment for twelve different games and how to play them just as many Indians did. Each step is illustrated and all materials are listed.

The Indian and His Horse

Hofsinde, Robert. Illus. by the author. 96p.
Wm. Morrow & Co., N.Y. 1960. $3.14 (lib. bdg.)

In this member of an outstanding series, Mr. Hofsinde details the introduction of the horse to North America by the Spaniards and the dramatic cultural changes that resulted among many tribes. The importance of these valuable animals for work, pleasure, and war is authentically described.

The American Indian Story

McNeer, May. Illus. by Lynd Ward. 95p.
Ariel Books, N.Y. 1963. $4.25.

This book discusses the possible migration of American Indians to North America through Alaska, briefly describes many of the great Indian chiefs, and includes the traditional folklore and customs of some tribes. Accurate historical information is presented in story form and is handsomely illustrated with lithographs.

The American Indian as Farmer

Morris, Loverne. Illus. by Henry Luhrs. 47p.
Melmont Children's Press, Chicago. 1963. $2.50.

The many American Indians who farmed successfully, rather than relying solely on hunting for their livelihood, are described here. The stories, in anecdotal form, cover a wide range of tribes.

The Trail of the Spanish Horse

Schultz, James W. Illus. by Lorence Bjorklund. 213p.
Houghton-Mifflin, Boston. 1960. $3.25.

This is a suspenseful story of two Blackfeet almost-brothers of the past in their attempt to recover a stolen horse from the Cheyenne. It includes accurate and comprehensive descriptions of rituals, requirements for becoming a warrior, and Indian life in the Northwest Plains.

With the Indians in the Rockies

Schultz, James W. Illus. by Lorence Bjorklund. 228p.
Houghton-Mifflin, Boston. 1960. $3.25.

Emphasizing the rigors of frontier life, this story concerns an Indian boy (Blackfeet) and a white boy who must depend upon each other for survival. Faced with widely contrasting value systems and cultures, the two boys must integrate them, and do, with growing friendship and respect for each other.

AGES 12 TO YOUNG ADULT

Hokahey: American Indians Then and Now

Dorian, Edith, and W. N. Wilson. 112p.
McGraw-Hill, N.Y. 1957. $4.50.

An excellent and entertaining historical study of the American Indian of yesterday and today as well as some possibilities for the future, this book is also copiously and attractively illustrated. The subject is approached by dividing the United States into several major sections and dealing with several tribes within each section.

Winged Mocassins, the Story of Sacajawea

Farnsworth, Frances J. Illus. by Lorence Bjorklund. 190p.
Julian Messner, N.Y. 1954. $3.50.

One of the many available biographies of Sacajawea, this is an account of the Shoshone woman who was so instrumental in making the Lewis and Clark expedition a success. Although treated negligently by her husband, Sacajawea endures the severe hardships of the journey.

Sitting Bull, Champion of His People

Garst, Shannon. Illus. by Elton Fax. 189p.
Julian Messner, N.Y. 1946. $3.50.

This biography of the great Sioux leader who fought to save his tribe from extinction discusses most of his battles and why he had to fight them. Sitting Bull, although a great warrior, was also a man of peace, a Medicine man.

Carol Blue Wing

Hoffine, Lyla. 214p.
David McKay, N.Y. 1967. $4.50.

A modern-day Dakota Sioux girl at college must face the question of whether or not to return to her reservation after completing her schooling. The book is honest and understanding about the difficulties involved in such a decision.

(Ages 12 & up)

Ishi, Last of His Tribe

Kroeber, Theodora. Illus. by Ruth Robbins. 206p.
Parnassus Press, Berkeley. 1964. $4.25.

A beautiful and haunting story of the boy who became the last of the Yahi tribe in 1911, and of the courageous handful who lived secretly according to the old Yahi way long after the white man came to their country. This is a moving and memorable book.

Arrows and Snakeskin

Riggs, Sidney N. 192p.
J. B. Lippincott, N.Y. 1962. $3.25.

This is the story of John Bishop, an English boy adopted by Pequot Indians in Colonial Connecticut, who has a happy life with them until war seems inevitable and he is unable to choose between his two backgrounds.

Great Indian Chiefs

Roland, Albert. 148p.
Crowell-Collier Press, N.Y. 1966. $3.50.

This concise history of American Indians in relationship to the settlers also contains biographies of nine famous Indian leaders and a brief section on more recent well-known Indians.

The Horsecatcher

Sandoz, Mari. 192p.
Westminster Press, Philadelphia. 1957. $3.50.

The Washington Post described this book as "The poignant, sensitive, compelling story of a Cheyenne youth...who did not want to kill or to become a warrior."

The Story Catcher

Sandoz, Mari. Illus. by E. J. McCorkell. 175p.
Westminster Press, Philadelphia. 1963. $3.50.

This book for young people and adults tells the story of how an impulsive Sioux youth of the past becomes a dedicated man who sees objectively and selflessly and puts it all down in truth.

(Ages 12 & up)

Towappu, Puritan Renegade

Stephens, Peter John. Illus. by William Moyers. 246p.
Atheneum, N.Y. 1966. $4.50.

Tim Morris, a boy of Colonial times, sets out to find his father accused of trading illegally with the Wampanoag tribe. He is found and cared for by the Wampanoags and lives happily with them. When misunderstandings on both sides threaten to lead to an Indian-white war, his dangerous pleas for tolerance prove to be of no avail.

White Cap for Rechinda

Voss, Carroll. 171p.
Ives Washburn, N.Y. 1966. $3.75.

This is the story of a contemporary Dakota Sioux girl trying to get through nursing school and her attempt at a resolution of Indian-white cultural conflicts. The book is sympathetic and accurate in its description of this uniquely modern problem.

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